

# POSITIVE ABILITIES

June 2016



SOUTH CAROLINA  
Developmental Disabilities Council

*The mission of the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is to provide leadership in planning, funding, and implementing initiatives that lead to improved quality of life for people with developmental disabilities and their families through advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change.*



Participants are truly excited about “Mapping Their Future”

***Conference Successes!***

***Partners in Policymaking®***

***Searching and Finding Success!***

***Planning the “State” of Our Future!***



CALANDER OF EVENTS....

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 	13	14 DD COUNCIL MEETING	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 IMPACT SC	24	25
26	27	28 IMPACT SC CQL Training	29 IMPACT SC CQL Training	30	July 	h12
3	4 Independence Day	5 NACDD Conference Equip Summer Series	6 NACDD Conference	7 NACDD Conference	8	9
10	11	12 Equip Summer Series	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Equip Summer Series	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Equip Summer Series	27	28	29	30
31		2 Equip Summer Series	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 DD COUNCIL MEETING Equip Summer Series	10	11	12	13
	15	16	17	18	19	20



## Hopes and Dreams Conference

The **2016 Hopes & Dreams Conference** provided an opportunity for professionals, family members and self-advocates to learn more about the resources and supports available to the special needs community. Family Connection's 22nd annual conference was held at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church Lighthouse on March 11th and 12th. The DD Council was proud to be a sponsor of this event.

Presentations and 45 workshops focused on topics related to early intervention, early and secondary education, advocacy, transition, and mental and behavioral health. Participants explored these issues and challenges, gaining valuable information that can be incorporated into their everyday life. 577 individuals participated in this two day event.

Dan Habib was the keynote speaker. He also participated in the track for individuals with disabilities Ages 14-26. Habib is a filmmaker at the University of



**William Fariior, Valarie Bishop and Dan Habib, Keynote speaker, pause for a moment to share smiles during the conference.**



New Hampshire's Institute on Disability.\*\* His films have been screened hundreds of times at universities, national conferences and independent theaters across the country and internationally, allowing him to lead discussions about the challenges and benefits of inclusive education and related topics.

\*\*The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council and Center for Disability Resources are also sponsors of Habib's new film "Intelligent Lives" that is currently in development and due to be released in 2017.

## HOPES AND DREAMS...



Participants anxiously await Dan Habib's presentation.



Conference goers have an opportunity between sessions to interact with vendors from across the state; most of who provide services for persons with disabilities and/or their family members. The conference provides an inclusive core of services available and participants state they are sometimes so overwhelmed in trying to figure things out or assist their love ones in finding appropriate support. Participants expressed their gratitude for being able to have a “one-stop-shop”, and are excited about the possibilities available to them.



# *Assistive Technology*



The South Carolina Assistive Technology Program (SCATP) continues to break attendance barriers, this year over 826 registered participants took part in the Expo. Dr. Carol Page along with the Center for Disabilities (CDR) staff and volunteers made every effort to accommodate all of the participants. The Workshops focused on improving skills, accessing resources, self-advocacy and other related topics. The DD Council is extremely excited about the work the program is doing and proud to serve on the SCATP Advisory Council and to be one of the Expo sponsors.



# PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING®



William "Will" Farrior, PIP® Coordinator

## Focus Areas

- Independent Living Skills
- Time Management
- Education
- Making Your Case
- Employment

Partners in Policymaking® (PIP) is a leadership training program which teaches self-advocates and parents how to be community leaders and how to obtain the best available services for themselves and others. PIP® was developed in 1987 by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities and has been replicated in 40 states. Participants travel to Columbia once a month for six months. Participants receive information, training and resources about local, state and national issues that affect people with disabilities.

Partners in Policymaking® is an innovative leadership program created specifically to teach people with disabilities and the parents of young children with disabilities to:

- Become agents of long-term change.
- Be active partners with the policymakers whose decisions will shape their future.
- Dream about a future with possibilities.



On July 1, 2015 the Developmental Disabilities Council brought the Partners in Policymaking® program into the Council office. For the last 18 years another sub-grantee, PRO-Parents, was responsible for running the program. After



**Frank Bentley, Council Chair and PIP® Graduate**

reviewing federal requirements for Self-Advocacy initiatives, the Council decided to take a more hands on approach towards the program and have a self-advocate facilitate. This gives participants' assurance of achievability as well as the facilitator an opportunity to further incorporate ideas from a self-advocacy prospective. This would also give participants someone they could relate to.





The importance of having a self-advocate allows the program to have an individual who would be able to mirror or inspire participants. As facilitator a self-advocate would be confident but still vulnerable to the group.

This first year has been challenging, but rewarding. William “Will” Farrior, Partners in Policymaking® Coordinator, states that he has also been in learning mode, but formulating ideas and strategies to help continue the success of the program. This year’s featured guest speakers honored us and provided pertinent information which enhanced continued development for participants.



The 19<sup>th</sup> Partners in Policymaking® class guest speakers were Representative James Smith Jr. and Richland County Councilman Jim Manning. Having them come speak allowed the participants' firsthand knowledge of how to get the attention of their state, federal and local officials whether it is in person or through a letter. The strategies outlined gave participants the confidence to approach their representatives without feeling intimidated.



Rep. James Smith, Jr.



Councilman Jim Manning



Other guest presenters were Dori Tempio, Robbie Kopp & Eboneika McGarity from Able SC; Marion Taylor, self-advocate and DD Council Member; Dr. Carol Page, Kristi Hartwell, Center for Disability Resources; Anthony Thompson, Community Options; Connie Coleman, SC Partnership of Disability Organizations Chairperson and former Council Chair; Melinda Moore, Mike Bell, Arc of the Midlands; Joyce Davis, SC Brain Injury Association; Margie Moore-Williamson, Arc of South Carolina and PIP Graduate; Brittany Higgins, Comet Bus Service; Angela Green, IMPACT and PIP Graduate; Sherry Larson, Family Connection; John Payne, State Department of Education; Angie Slatton, Lex/Rich School District 5 and Jane Everson. A special heart-felt “thank you” to everyone for making PIP® successful!

**Valarie Bishop, Executive Director of DD Council; William Farrior, PIP® Coordinator; and Reyhan Miller, Program Coordinator receive special recognition from the PIP® Class participants presented by Class 19 graduate Valarie Adams.**



**Dori Tempio shared words of encouragement the during graduation ceremony!**



**Participants enjoy graduation refreshments!**



## A Leader in Disability Rights

The Arc of the Midlands is a member of the largest national community-based organization advocating for and serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. They encompass all ages and all spectrums from autism, Down syndrome, Fragile X and various other developmental and intellectual disabilities.

## Project SEARCH

Graduation day was held June 1, 2016 for the students from the Project SEARCH program at Palmetto Health Baptist Parkridge. Congratulations Daniel, Judith, Taylor, Tarung and Rodheem! It has been amazing to see the growth in these individuals' confidence and knowledge over the last school year. As of the graduation date, all interns have been employed in full time positions at Palmetto Health Baptist Parkridge.



This program is a collaboration between Council Grantee Arc of the Midlands, Lexington-Richland School District 5, Palmetto Health Baptist Parkridge, South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation, Department of Disabilities and Special Needs and

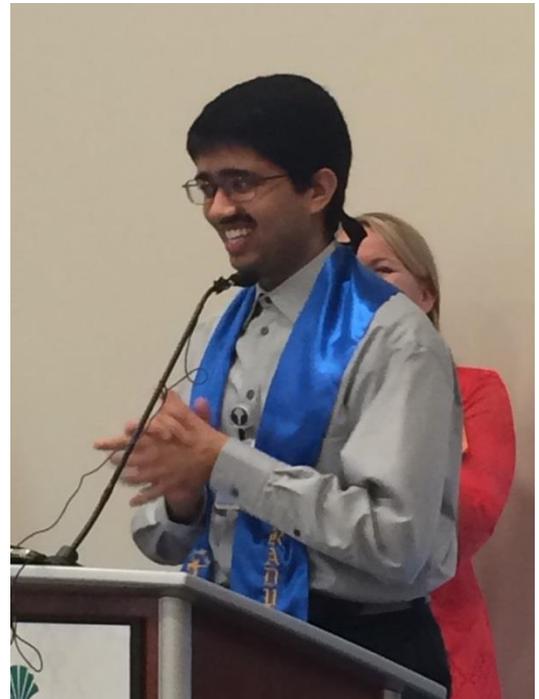
### **Project SEARCH recognition at the School District 5 of Lexington and Richland Counties Board Meeting**

the South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council. Everyone involved in the program has been incredible. A huge thank you for making this program a success.

The Project SEARCH High School Transition Program is a unique, business led, one year school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations.

We are looking forward to helping additional programs get started with a new Council grant that will add 3 new programs per year over the next three years.







## DISABILITY ADVOCACY DAY

Disability Advocacy Day continues to see a large turnout in support of disability rights. Participants continue to fight for housing, transportation, employment, and medical care. Governor Haley remains a vigilant supporter and encourages Disability Advocacy Day participants to continue advocating for their rights.



Governor Haley addresses participants during Disability Advocacy Day in March 2016.



## Advocacy Day for Access and Independence - 3rd Annual



Senator Katrina Shealy, Robbie Kopp, Attorney General Alan Wilson, Amy Holbert, Valarie Bishop



Abbeville high school with Attorney General Alan Wilson

\*\*\*GRANTEES\*\*\*

The DD Council would like to say a very special “THANK YOU” to the following grantees for all of their hard work. We cannot begin to express our gratitude for the phenomenal work each of you has done in helping the Council carry out its mission. While Council funding has ended, we are elated that the programs your agencies began with the Council in 2013 continues. The success achieved by each program attests to the dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life for the citizens of South Carolina; especially within the disability community.



- |                          |   |   |
|--------------------------|---|---|
| Babcock Center, Inc.     | - | Everybody Talks                               |
| Arc of South Carolina    | - | Walk This Way                                 |
| Arc of South Carolina    | - | Rec-Connect/ArcWorks                          |
| Project HOPE Foundation  | - | Extended Hope                                 |
| Project HOPE Foundation  | - | Virtual Hope                                  |
| SOS Health Care, Inc.    | - | Consignment Shop, Job Training and Day Center |
| The Therapy Place        | - | Bridges at The Therapy Place                  |
| York School District One | - | Students & Job Coach = Success                |
| Community Options, Inc.  | - | STEP for SC                                   |
| PRO-Parents              | - | Youth Leadership Forum                        |

**Charles L. “Chuck” McLafferty**

The South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council is saddened at the passing of Dr. Charles “Chuck” McLafferty. “Chuck” has been a part of the DD Council for many years. He was passionate in his service to the Council and took to heart the mission; endeavoring that every self-advocate, parent and caregiver understood their rights and were well represented regardless of their disability.

Chuck was a founding member of the South Carolina Head Injury Association; he was a member of the South Carolina Disabilities Council and the Family Health Center board. He also served for 10 years as treasurer of the South Carolina Respite Association.

Chuck loved to travel; last summer he completed his goal of visiting 100 countries and all 50 states. He loved to tell stories and was fond of saying — with a grin — that “most of them are true.” He will truly be missed, but we are grateful for the lessons learned from the wisdom he imparted to the Council!



## South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council

*Office of Executive Policy and Programs : Department of Administration*

### 2017-2021 Five Year State Plan Draft Goals and Objectives

<b><u>Goal 1: Employment</u></b>	
People with Intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to competitive, community-based career opportunities throughout their lifetime.	
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
1. Support programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that improve access to integrated workforce development systems.	2017 and thereafter.
2. Support programs that empower people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to develop and direct their own career strategy using appropriate evidence-based and best practice methods.	2017 and thereafter.

<b><u>Goal 2: Community Supports</u></b>	
People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have access to their own choice of formal and informal community-based services, supports, resources, and activities throughout their lifetime.	
<u>Objectives</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
1. Support at least two programs that provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families information about their rights, services, and supports.	2017 and thereafter.
2. Support at least two programs that provide people with intellectual and developmental disabilities opportunities to improve community integration, inclusion, and productivity.	2017 and thereafter.
3. Support at least one program that addresses an emerging health issue for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities using evidence-based practices and interventions.	2017 and thereafter.
4. Support at least one program that includes an organization serving South Carolina's Latino/Hispanic community and improves access to community-based services, supports, resources, and activities.	2017 and thereafter.

2017-2021 Five Year State Plan  
Draft Goals and Objectives Continued

<b><u>Goal 3: Self Advocacy</u></b>	
People with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families are empowered to effect statewide leadership training opportunities that contribute to active participation in cross disability leadership coalitions and systems change efforts.	
Objectives	Timeline
1. Support at least one statewide self-advocacy organization led by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to provide opportunities for increasing leadership abilities and to meet self-defined organizational goals.	2017 and thereafter.
2. Support opportunities that strengthen leadership abilities in peer-to-peer networks of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families.	2017 and thereafter.
3. Support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members to engage cross-disability, culturally diverse leadership boards, committees, commissions, councils, and similar coalitions.	2017 and thereafter.
4. The Developmental Disabilities Council will collaborate with South Carolina’s Center for Disability Resources (UCEDD) and Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities in South Carolina (P&A System) on at least one program that engages system beneficiaries to assess system barriers and influence positive changes in service delivery, policies, interventions, and strategies.	2017 and thereafter

## Message from the Executive Director



*Valarie Bishop*

The first half of 2016 was packed with positive advocacy events. Advocacy is a critical function of the Council. Supporting individuals and family members to advocate for themselves is at the core of our work. Helping individuals to learn the systems and gain the knowledge to effectively communicate for their own rights and interests is essential. Everyone has the right to make informed decisions and to be responsible for those decisions. We will continue to work with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their family members to gain the services and supports they need to achieve independence.

### South Carolina Developmental Disabilities Council

Mrs. Kimberly Addis  
Ms. Anita Atwood  
Mrs. Mary Eaddy-Baker  
Mr. Joseph Barefoot  
Mrs. Michelle Barefoot  
Mrs. Susan Beck  
Ms. Dianne Bennett  
Mrs. Mary Ann DeBerry

Mr. Phillip Clarkson  
Mr. Coy L. "Les" Durham, III  
Mr. Milton "Drew" Gatlin, Jr.  
Mr. Owens Goff  
Mr. Jeffrey Ham  
Mrs. Alfreda King  
Mr. Roger Kuperman  
Ms. Melina Lee

Ms. Kimberly Maple  
Mr. Derrick Means  
Ms. Asha Purohit  
Dr. David Rotholz  
Mr. Marion Taylor  
Mrs. Jennifer Van Cleave

#### Staff

Valarie Bishop, Executive Director  
Kimberly Fontanez, Grants Administrator  
Cheryl English, Program Coordinator  
Reyhan Miller, Program Coordinator  
William Farrior, Program Assistant  
Esther Williams, Administrative Assistant

(803) 734-0465  
[scddc.sc.gov](http://scddc.sc.gov)

1205 Pendleton Street  
Columbia, SC 29201

*The 2016 Positive Abilities Newsletter was produced in part by Grant # 1601SCBSDD of the Administration for Community Living.*